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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Czech Failure to Deliver Barges
to USSR

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Under the terms of the 1951 Russo-Czech trade treaty the Czechs agreed to deliver to the USSR 12 large motor barges for service on the Volga-Don Canal. Orders were placed for the barges during the latter half of 1951 and construction was completed early in 1952. Four of the barges, built at the Komarno (P48/Y76) shipyards, have been delivered via the Danube River - Black Sea route. The four barges which were built at Usti nad Labem (N51/F44) can be dispatched only via the Elbe River through Hamburg, Germany. The remaining four barges, constructed at the Skoda plant in Hradec Kralove (O51/G71), cannot be delivered because there is no equipment available by which the barges can be transported overland.

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